

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /099 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:SEB
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
WH:WQUANDT
S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----047662 190530Z /15

R 180407Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T STATE 070308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MO, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MOROCCAN MINISTER BOUCETTA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA MET FOR APPROXIMATELY THIRTY MINUTES WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE ON MARCH 14. ALSO PRESENT WERE AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN, AMBASSADOR ANDERSON, DEPASSTSECY VELIOTES AND MR. CLIFT, FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER TO THE VICE PRESIDENT.

2. BOUCETTA
EMPHASIZED MOROCCO'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE BEST OF RELATIONS WITH THE US. NOTED THAT SUCH RELATIONS WERE IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS GIVEN SHARED VALUES OF FREEDOM

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AND LIBERTY, AND COMMON VIEWS ON SECURITY GOALS. NOTED THIS IS CRITICAL PERIOD IN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST AND EMPHASIZED MOROCCO INTENDS REMAIN ON PATH OF MODERATION, WISDOM AND FREEDOM. EMPHASIZED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN MOROCCO IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS, DRAWING ON HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES TO UNDERScore THIS FACT, CITED COMPARISON WITH UNNAMED "OTHER" COUNTRIES,

AND MADE POINT THAT MOROCCO IS MODEL IN THIRD WORLD.
BOUCETTA CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS LEADING
ROLE IN SENSITIZING WORLD TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS.

2. IN TURNING LETTER OVER TO VICE PRESIDENT, BOUCETTA
EMPHASIZED THE HANDWRITTEN COMMENT BY KING IN MARGIN WHICH
EMPHASIZED KING'S PERSONAL DEDICATION TO US-MOROCCAN
FRIENDSHIP (UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LETTER
FOLLOWS SEPTEL MINUS KING'S MARGINAL COMMENTS WHICH
APPARENTLY WERE ONLY ON FRENCH ORIGINAL). BOUCETTA EX-
PLAINED THAT SUBJECT OF LETTER CONCERNS PREOCCUPATION
OF KING AND GOM WITH SAHARA. HE STATED THAT HE HAD
DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE IN GREAT DETAIL WITH SECRETARY
VANCE; HE PUT SAHARA INTO CONTEXT OF SOVIET AND CUBAN
THREAT TO AFRICA, NOTING IN THIS CONTEXT THAT MOROCCO
HAS CHOSEN THE SIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

3. BOUCETTA SAID THAT LETTER DEALT WITH "CERTAIN PUBLIC
STATEMENTS" BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS (LETTER CITES MAR.
1 REMARKS BY VELIOTES BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE),
WHICH DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MOROCCAN ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL
AND SOVEREIGNTY IN THE SAHARA, NOTING SUCH STATEMENTS
WOULD BE SEIZED ON BY MOROCCO'S "OPPONENTS" AND COULD
CAUSE PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS. BOUCETTA NOTED THAT
DECISION TO SEND HIM HERE HAD BEEN MADE BY KING, AND
KING'S LETTER WRITTEN, BEFORE U.S. HAD INFORMED

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MOROCCO OF DECISION NOT TO SELL OV-10'S AND COBRA'S TO
MOROCCO FOR USE IN THE SAHARA. HE STATED THAT THE KING
WAS DISMAYED AND VERY SORRY TO RECIEVE OUR NEGATIVE REAC-
TION AND COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE WOULD NOT HELP
MOROCCO AGAINST AN ADVERSARY WHO WAS RECEIVING UNLIMITED
ARMS FROM THE SOVIET UNION. BOUCETTA SAID THAT IN THE
MESSAGE CONVEYING NEGATIVE DECISION, SECRETARY HAD
INDICATED WE COULD NOT GO FORWARD "AT THIS TIME" TO THE
CONGRESS. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE MAY BE SOME REASON
ON OUR PART TO DELAY SUCH ACTION BUT HE HOPED AND URGED
US TO REVIEW SITUATION AND TO PRESENT MOROCCAN REQUEST
TO THE CONGRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. AT APPROPRIATE POINTS DURING BOUCETTA'S COMMENTS, VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE EMPHASIZED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US OF
OUR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO AND OUR RESPECT AND
APPRECIATION FOR KING. VICE PRESIDENT ASSURED FOREIGN
MINISTER THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY DELIVER KING'S LETTER
TO PRESIDENT AND THAT HE WOULD ALSO DISCUSS ISSUES
RAISED BY BOUCETTA WITH SECRETARY VANCE. HE NOTED THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD FOCUS PERSONALLY ON LETTER AND
WOULD REPLY IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. BOUCETTA EXPRESSED HIS CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF SENATOR HUMPHREY, EXTOLLED THE SENATOR'S VIRTUES AS A

HUMAN BEING AND STATESMAN AND STATED THAT MOROCCO WOULD LIKE TO BE OFFICIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH ANY MEMORIAL PLANNED FOR HUMPHREY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY BELONGED TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE FREE WORLD, TO WHICH, OF COURSE, MOROCCO BELONGED. VICE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS DEEP PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HUMPHREY AND HE ASKED HIS ASSISTANT, MR. CLIFT, PERSONALLY TO FOLLOW UP WITH AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN CONCERNING A MOROCCAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE HHH MEMORIAL.

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6. AT VERY END OF MEETING, BOUCETTA STATED THAT THE KING VERY MUCH HOPED TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES FOR AN INFORMAL WORKING VISIT OF PERHAPS A DAY AND A HALF IN NEAR FUTURE. IN MAKING THIS PRESENTATION, BOUCETTA EMPHASIZED THAT WHAT HE MEANT WAS THAT THE KING WANTED TO COME HERE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IN REPLY, VICE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED OUR GREAT APPRECIATION AND RESPECT FOR THE KING AND NOTED THAT WE WOULD OF COURSE BE HAPPY TO WELCOME HIM TO THE UNITED STATES. THE VICE PRESIDENT CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DATE FOR ANY VISIT WOULD DEPEND UPON PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE. BOUCETTA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND REPEATED HOW MUCH THE KING WANTED TO COME IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

7. ON BEHALF OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, MR. CLIFT EMPHASIZED TO BOTH AMBASSADOR ANDERSON AND VELIOTES AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD NOT MADE ANY COMMITMENT AS TO TIMING FOR SUCH A VISIT AND HE HOPED THIS WAS CLEAR TO THE MOROCCANS.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE070308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NAVELIOTES:SEB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-0575
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780351/aaaabqsf.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b987cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3281055
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH MOROCCAN MINISTER BOUCETTA
TAGS: PEPR, MO, US, (BOUCETTA, MOHAMED)
To: RABAT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b987cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014